

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year

1952

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HEALTH AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE, 1952.

Councillor S. Kermode (Chairman).

His Worship The Mayor (Councillor K. H. Ashcroft).

Councillor G. L. Cazalet.

Councillor P. G. G. King.

Councillor D. Llewellyn.

Councillor W. E. Morgan.

Councillor Miss E. I. Padwick.

Councillor Mrs. E. M. Wallis Power.

Councillor J. W. Richardson.

Councillor K. Smith.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. McNab, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. Le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

J. H. Stokes, M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

A. F. Saunders, Cert.S.I.B.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1952.**

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I submit for your information and consideration my sixth Annual Report on the health and circumstances of your Borough.

Appended to this report is that of your Chief Sanitary Inspector in which he deals with those sections of the work of the Health Department which are peculiarly his province.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough enjoys notable advantages in its siting and its amenities. It has a sea coast some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles in extent, two rivers that fall into a land-locked tidal basin, and a hinterland which adjoins the New Forest and the heaths on the west of the Avon. The soil is in the main sandy or gravelly.

The western and older part of the town is to a large extent built up, and future development must necessarily be in the narrow tongue which extends towards the east.

Development in recent years has been rapid with the introduction of light industry and the rise of large factories, both within and without our boundary. In the past 20 years the population has almost doubled, and 46% of this increase has occurred since the end of the recent war. An increase on such a scale has naturally produced many problems and of these housing looms largest. A great deal has been done but much remains yet to do. It is obvious that the town cannot continue to expand at its present rate within its existing boundary, so that, failing territorial extension, a halt must be reached within the foreseeable future.

RAINFALL FOR 1952:

January	...	...	1.82	July	...	...	0.26
February	...	...	1.42	August	..	...	2.18
March	...	...	2.50	September	...	...	4.35
April	...	...	1.70	October	.	..	3.96
May	...	...	1.81	November	...	...	4.31
June	...	...	1.19	December	...	...	3.08

Total: 28.58 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 5,198 acres.

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1952: 21,290.

Number of inhabited houses: 6,304.

Rateable value, 31/3/52: £179,058.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £728 4s. 11d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952 (as supplied by the Registrar-General):

Live Births

				Total	Male	Female
Total	...	...	...	319	173	146
Legitimate	...	...	...	302	165	137
Illegitimate	...	...	...	17	8	9

Still Births

Total	7	3	4
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Deaths

Total	235	115	120
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Infant Mortality

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age):

Total	7	6	1
Legitimate	7	6	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

(Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age):

Total	...	...	...	6	5	1
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from puerperal causes	—	—	—
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COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

		Borough of Christchurch	England and Wales
Birth Rate (Comparability Factor .97):			
per 1,000 estimated population:	...	14.9	15.3
after application of comparability factor		14.5	
Still Birth Rate:			
per 1,000 estimated population	...	0.33	0.35
Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.72):			
per 1,000 estimated population	...	11.03	11.3
after application of comparability factor		7.9	
Infant Mortality Rate (under 1 year of age):			
All causes per 1,000 live births:	...	21.9	27.6
Maternal Mortality Rate:			
per 1,000 total (live and still births):	...	—	0.72
Special Causes:			
Death rate per 1,000 population:			
Typhoid and paratyphoid	...	...	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	0.00
Diphtheria	...	...	0.00
Influenza	...	...	0.04
Smallpox	...	...	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	0.14
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis		0.05	0.01
Pneumonia	...	...	0.19
			0.47

Year	Popula-tion	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1949	19,040	27.0	17.0	13.7	32	16.7	11.7
1950	19,500	16.6	15.4	12.6	30	15.8	11.6
1951	20,330	23.5	16.7	12.6	29.6	15.5	12.5
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.03	27.6	15.3	11.3

Causes of Death:

			Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	1	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	2	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	0
8.	Measles	...	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	4	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	0	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	0	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8		14
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	10	20
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	21	11
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	27	30
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	4	4
22.	Influenza	...	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	...	2	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	5	1
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	1	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	0	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	1	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	...	1	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	13	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	0
34.	All other accidents	...	2	3
35.	Suicide	...	2	0
36.	Homocide and operations of war	...	0	0
TOTAL (all causes)			115	120

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

Notifiable disease was in the main in low prevalence throughout the year. There was an unexpectedly large number of cases of Measles when it is remembered that this was not a "Measles year". The explanation appears to be that the 1953 outbreak started, and got well under way, in the latter part of 1952.

A large increase in the notification rate of Scarlet Fever was due to a straggling series of cases largely associated with Highcliffe C.E. School. A series of investigations failed to establish the origin and a number of differing types of organism were found to be occurring with a slight preponderance of one specific type. The outbreak has continued on into the succeeding year.

For the fifth successive year no case of diphtheria was reported.

Four cases of poliomyelitis were notified. Three were adult males of whom one died and was only diagnosed at post mortem. One was a child who had a remote association with the case who died. One man was really a Bournemouth case who was admitted to Christchurch Hospital and there diagnosed as poliomyelitis.

Of the two cases of Dysentery, one was a case of Amoebic Dysentery in a civil airline employee and the other was a sporadic case of Sonne Dysentery.

Disease	Number notified	Borough of Christchurch	Rate per 1,000 population	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever ...	58	...	2.72	1.53
Whooping Cough	29	...	1.36	2.61
Diphtheria	...	—	—	0.01
Erysipelas	2	...	0.09	0.14
Measles	229	...	10.75	8.86
Pneumonia	10	...	0.47	0.72
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	4	...	0.18	0.06
(non-paralytic)	—	...	—	0.03
Meningococcal infection	—	...	—	0.03
Food Poisoning	3	...	0.14	0.13
Dysentery	2	...	0.09	—

PSITTACOSIS:

In the early part of December a bird fancier in the town purchased two birds of the parrot family, barabands, which had been part of a consignment from Australia in which Psittacosis occurred. One of these birds later sickened and died and was sent for pathological examination. Before the result of the examination came to hand the owner became seriously ill with symptoms of Psittacosis and was admitted to hospital, where he responded to treatment and made a good recovery. In due course both the bird and its owner were confirmed by the Central Virus Reference Laboratory

as having suffered from Psittacosis. No further human cases occurred.

As a result of this and other cases elsewhere, the Psittacosis Order, which had been revoked about a year previously, was reintroduced and the importation of members of the parrot family was again forbidden.

TUBERCULOSIS:

The Chest Clinic facilities in the area have shown no change from the previous year. Dr. Stuart Robertson continues to conduct the Millhams Street Clinic which serves Christchurch, Lymington, and most of Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District. The number of new cases notified has increased over the very low figures of the previous two years but the general trend in this disease is increasingly hopeful. The national death rate for example has halved in the past four years. The waiting time for admission to a Sanatorium which only three years ago was many months in this area, is now a matter of weeks and in some cases immediate admission can be arranged. The rapid removal of infectious or potentially infectious cases from contact with their associates, together with specific therapy with the newer drugs and the increasing use of such methods of early diagnosis as Mass Radiography must ultimately result in a progressive fall in new cases. Meantime these same improved methods of early diagnosis may well produce an apparent increase in new cases.

Number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register:—141.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
65	50	13	13

New Cases and Mortality 1932 — 1952:

Pulmonary	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1932	1	7	—	3	2	3	—	—
1936	4	4	2	1	1	—	2	—
1940	10	1	2	4	5	1	—	—
1944	5	2	2	2	1	2	—	—
1947	19	17	1	2	2	3	—	—
1948	15	10	1	4	2	1	—	1
1949	19	9	1	2	6	2	—	—
1950	8	5	2	—	3	1	—	—
1951	6	7	—	1	5	2	—	—
1952	12	7	—	1	1	1	1	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

The Mass Radiography Unit paid a further visit to Christchurch from the 18th June to 4th July. Once again the Unit was stationed at the Health Centre in Millhams Street but this time no visit was made to Highcliffe, the response eighteen months previously was considered insufficient to warrant a further special visit by the Unit.

In spite of the central position of the Unit and the fact that it was summer and the weather good the public response could hardly be considered satisfactory, though it was appreciably better than on the previous visit to Christchurch and Highcliffe. The public has not yet learned to accept freely this health measure, but as the Unit will return to the area regularly in the years to come I feel that public confidence will grow and will be reflected in improved figures.

	Gen. Public		Schoolchildren		Nat. Serv.	Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		
No. X-rayed	610	1197	236	110	221	2374
Recalled for Large Film	20	25	5	2	8	60
Referred to Chest Clinic (prob. tub.)	-	6	1	1	3	11
Referred to C.C. (non-tuberculosis) ...	-	-	-	1	-	1
Referred to Doctor or Hospital	5	2	1	-	-	8
No. of cases of active tuberculosis found (included in those referred to Chest Clinic)	-	2	1	-	1	4

TUBERCULOSIS — CARE AND AFTER CARE:

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee formed in 1951 under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners got well into its stride during the year and settled down to providing assistance for a steady stream of cases brought to its notice by the Chest Physician. The assistance has been varied in character and has been limited to help of a kind not available from other sources. It has included such items as additional nourishment, clothing, and coal, and the payment of pressing debts. One man has been set up in a new business more suited to his health. The co-operation and assistance of other voluntary agencies has been sought and obtained.

Twenty-six patients from the area served by the Christchurch Chest Clinic received assistance at a cost of some £350 during the

year ended 31st March, 1953. Apart from a County Council grant of £100 this sum was provided from voluntary sources and by the sale of N.A.P.T. Christmas Seals.

A great deal of very valuable work has been done and tribute should be paid to the energy of Lady Manners and to the pains-taking work of the Hon. Sec., Major F. A. L. Lawrence, and the Hon. Treasurer, Lt.-Col. M. E. Morgan.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

The immunisation figures, which had shown a sharp fall the previous year, showed some recovery, there being an increase of 55 in the primary immunisations and of 92 in the number of refresher doses. Thirty-eight per cent. of the 1951 children who have been immunised received the treatment at Infant Welfare Clinics.

During the year 283 children were immunised for the first time; of these 244 were under the age of five and 39 were over five. 342 children previously immunised received refresher doses.

The proportion of children born within the previous 12 months who have been immunised is 54.8%. Approximately 57% of all children under 15 have at one time or another received immunisation treatment.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works lie wholly within the Borough boundary. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, most of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of Wiltshire, part of the New Forest Rural District, and part of the Borough of Lymington. It derives its raw water from the River Avon within the Borough and treats it by slow sand filtration and chloramination.

During the year the raw water was examined 11 times with, in the main, low total counts. The Avon is a river which, unlike many used for public water supplies, is not subject to gross pollution and the quality of the water is normally remarkably constant. *B. coli* was present in one-tenth ml. in 4 of the samples and absent in one-tenth ml. in the remaining 7. The treated water was examined bacteriologically on 65 occasions with entirely satisfactory results.

The supply is constant and the water is of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Water Company's records show 6,332 houses and shops to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of the examination of the water is given below:—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.
ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 22nd July,
1952 from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY.

Chemical Results in Parts Per Million:

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Turbidity: Nil.

Colour: Less than 10. Odour: Nil.

pH: 7.9. Free Carbon Dioxide: 3.

Electric Conductivity: 395. Total Solids: 265.

Chlorine present as Chloride: 16. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 190.

Hardness: Total 220. Carbonate: 190. Non-Carbonate: 30.

Nitrate Nitrogen: 2.0. Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.053. Oxygen absorbed: 0.60.

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.031. Residual Chlorine: 0.15.

Metals: Absent.

Bacteriological Results:

Number of colonies developing on Agar:—

1 day at 37°C: 0 per ml.

2 days at 37°C: 3 per ml.

3 days at 20°C: 1 per ml.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction:

Absent from: 100 ml.

Bact. coli. (Type 1):

Absent from: 100 ml.

Cl. welchii Reaction:

Absent from: 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is moderately hard in character and free from any excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are very satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Sgd. ROY C. HOATHER.

SEWERAGE:

Progress is being made with the preparation of the proposed scheme for the treatment of all the town's sewage on an inland site situated on the east side of Stoney Lane, immediately south of the railway, with the discharge of the purified effluent into the Avon. This will necessarily take a number of years and in the meantime our sewage must continue to discharge into the sea. Our own outfall is irremediably damaged and we have approval to connect temporarily to a nearby outfall belonging to Bournemouth. No progress was made with this connection during the year owing to difficulties which Bournemouth has itself experienced with this outfall. Our sewage therefore has continued to discharge from our damaged outfall in a position much closer to the beach than is desirable.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The Public Health Laboratory operated throughout the year from its new and more spacious premises at Boscombe. The greater accessibility of the Laboratory has meant that we have been able to make fuller use of the facilities available. The number of specimens emanating from the Borough has more than doubled. Dr. G. J. G. King, the Director, is as always at our service with helpful advice and encouragement in epidemiological matters.

The following list of work carried out at the Laboratory on specimens from this area has been kindly supplied by the Director:-

Nose and throat	...	166
Sputa	...	6
Faeces	...	31
Urine	...	3
Venereal disease	...	6
Other human	...	12
Veterinary	...	1
Water	...	4
Milk	...	23
Ice cream	...	131
Other sanitary	...	3
Total		386

FOOD POISONING:

One food poisoning incident only was reported throughout the year. This involved three members of one family who consumed meat which had been reheated after being left over from the previous day. They suffered from the typical symptoms of toxic food poisoning but made an uneventful recovery. The incident served once again to emphasise the dangers of eating left-over protein foods where refrigeration is not available and where hygienic precautions have been relaxed.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

A considerable proportion of the time of your Inspectors has again been occupied in the routine inspection of food premises throughout the town, and with this inspection is combined much valuable advice and instruction in hygienic food handling. The very high standard achieved by the majority of the food premises in the town has been maintained and in many cases enhanced. Our food shops are in general a credit to the town and our food traders acutely conscious of their responsibilities to the public.

ICE CREAM:

The sampling of ice cream and its subjection to the Methylene Blue Test as an index of cleanliness has continued with particular emphasis on the warmer months of the year. The dramatically progressive improvement which has been noted year by year in the test results over the past five years has not been maintained though nearly 95% of the samples fell into the satisfactory grades. There is no doubt that ice cream as it is sold today in your district can rightly be regarded as clean, safe and wholesome.

The number of retailers has decreased and is now 91.

The following table shows the results of the Methylene Blue Test over the past six years:—

**Ice Cream Samples since 1947.
Result of Methylene Blue Test.**

Year	No. of Samples	SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY	
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
1947	53	7.5%	20.8%	22.6%	49.1%
1948	72	19.4%	29.2%	32.0%	19.4%
1949	136	48.5%	29.4%	15.5%	6.6%
1950	160	70.0%	19.4%	6.9%	3.7%
1951	88	93.2%	5.7%	—	1.1%
1952	107	79.4%	15.0%	2.8%	2.8%

SCHOOLS:

The tale of overcrowding which I have told each year can well be reiterated. The Senior School, originally built for 400 children, has 850, the new Addiscombe Road School built for 320 has already nearly 400. The Priory School, Mudeford School, Highcliffe and St. Joseph's are all congested. The primary cause has of course been the temporary rise in the birth rate which follows every war, but there has also been a progressive rise in the population, there are 4,600 more people now in Christchurch than there were in 1945. The result is that a permanent rise in the number of births has also occurred and the only solution is the provision of further school places. The new schools to be built at Somerford will absorb some, but by no means all of the absolute increase in the child population. It is apparent that overcrowding is to be a feature of our schools for some years.

School meals are available at all schools, cooked in kitchens on the school premises. Where makeshift buildings have been used, as at Mudeford and Wick Lane, the conditions cannot be regarded as satisfactory. None the less every endeavour is made by the Education Authority to make canteen staffs food hygiene conscious and with this end in view courses for canteen staff are held from time to time. I lectured at one such course held during the year.

CHILD WELFARE:

There has been no change in the arrangements at the two Child Welfare Clinics run by the County Council. Each is staffed by an Assistant County Medical Officer and by health visitors and is run by a voluntary committee who maintain the records, conduct the sale and distribution of welfare foods and a very limited number of medicaments, and provide tea. The hard work of these committees is at times I believe taken for granted, particularly by those who profit from their ministrations and I should like again to pay my tribute to their splendid community spirit.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47:

One case only was considered for action under the above section but was not considered to be a proper subject for compulsion and was dealt with by the provision of a home help.

NURSERIES:

There are now no privately run residential nurseries in the town. The British Red Cross Society conducts two residential nurseries.

There is one small private day nursery.

The County Council Day Nursery in the Square House continues to cater for 38 children of working mothers or children who have been specially recommended on medical or social grounds. A sliding scale of charges is made on a means test basis.

ILLEGITIMACY:

The illegitimacy rate, after last year's rise, has fallen to 53 per 1,000 live births which can be considered to be satisfactory and a very reasonable figure in normal times.

No deaths occurred among illegitimate babies under one year of age. This is commendable in view of the greater risks to which such babies are normally exposed.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT:

The following figures, showing the state of employment and unemployment within the Christchurch Employment Exchange area which, in addition to the Borough of Christchurch, includes Hurn and Holmsley, have been kindly supplied by Mr. C. A. Mitchell, the Manager of the Christchurch Employment Exchange. The unemployment figures do not include young persons under the age of 18 years.

1. The number of unemployed persons over 18 years of age registered at Christchurch Employment Exchange during the year 1952 were as follows:—

		Males	Females	Total
January	...	136	92	228
February	...	115	72	187
March	...	131	86	217
April	...	111	70	181
May	...	105	63	168
June	...	100	58	158
July	...	106	47	153
August	...	78	60	138
September	...	100	48	148
October	...	154	77	231
November	...	162	83	245
December	...	155	88	243
Average		121	70	191

2. The approximate numbers of insured employees in the Christchurch Employment Exchange Area at mid-1952 based on the number of National Insurance cards exchanged by the Christchurch National Insurance Office were as follows:—

Industry		Males	Females	Total
Agriculture and Horticulture	...	220	42	262
Engineering, Shipbuilding, etc.	...	1,242	189	1,431
Vehicle and Aircraft industries	...	2,466	387	2,853
Other Manufacturing industries		268	237	505
Building and Civil Engineering	...	879	24	903
Gas, Electricity and Water Supply		175	6	181
Transport and Communications	...	201	36	237
National and Local Government				
Service	...	281	141	422
Distributive Trades	...	264	245	509
Professional Services (Education, Medical, etc.)	...	152	444	596
Hotels and Catering	...	66	296	362
Private Domestic Service	...	38	271	309
Other Industries and Services	...	137	110	247
Total		6,389	2,428	8,817

No separate figures are available for persons under 18 years of age this year.

3. The approximate percentage of male and female workers over 18 years of age who were registered as unemployed was:—

	March	June	Sept.	Dec.	Average over year
Males	2.1	1.6	1.6	2.5	2.0
Females	3.9	2.7	2.2	4.0	3.2

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough has been satisfactory throughout the year.

There was an unusually high incidence of Scarlet Fever largely confined to the eastern part of the Borough. The Measles figures were high for a non-epidemic year. Other infectious diseases were negligible.

The population increased by an estimated 960.

The Birth Rate was the lowest for 12 years and was below the National figure.

The Infant Mortality Rate decreased slightly and was below the National figure.

The Death Rate declined and was slightly less than the National figure; after application of the comparability factor, which allows for differing age and sex distribution in different areas, the Death Rate was 30% below the National figure.

Housing continues to present major difficulties and the housing waiting list, though it has shown some reduction, is still of a size which indicates that we are to have a housing problem for years to come. 54 Council houses were completed during the year, together with 51 private houses, yet the housing waiting list stood at 723 at the end of the year. The time has come when serious thought should be given to dealing with a number of properties throughout the town which are either of slum type or are old and worn out, completely lacking in modern amenities and cannot be maintained in a state of repair at anything like reasonable expense.

Among unfit houses the biggest problem remains the 173 families in that section of Holmsley which is the responsibility of this Council. It is now five years since I first uttered a warning on the social dangers inherent in the prolonged use of this type of substandard housing let at abnormally low rents, and there is some evidence that the deterioration which I forecast then is commencing to take place. Indefinite prolongation of their use will make the inhabitants increasingly difficult to rehabilitate. I feel that if a target date were laid down for the ultimate complete closure of our sites a considerable stimulus would be given to morale.

The position concerning sewage disposal is for the present unchanged.

In conclusion, I wish again to thank the Mayor and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, my colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and in particular the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their hard work and loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB.

June, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
FOR THE YEAR
1952.**

To The MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my twelfth Annual Report in which I give a brief review of the work of my department during the year 1952. As usual, the report covers the period 1st January to 31st December. The Tables dealing with income and expenditure and those showing Lorry Operating Costs are for the Financial year 1st April, 1952 to 31st March, 1953.

There has been a further substantial increase in the population as shown in the Registrar General's Return for mid-June, 1952. The figure is now 21,290 as against 20,330 a year ago. The summer population is considerably in excess of this figure which also does not include the families temporarily housed at Holmsley.

This continued increase in the population naturally adds to the work of the department and is particularly reflected in the difficulties experienced in maintaining a weekly collection of refuse with the existing staff. This is referred to under the appropriate heading later in this report.

I wish to draw particular attention to the section dealing with refuse disposal. In that section I refer to the difficulties confronting the Council and make suggestions for overcoming them.

1. STAFF:

In my previous Annual Report I drew attention to the difficulties experienced in maintaining the many records which have to be kept in the department and suggested that an additional junior clerk be appointed.

The question of staff was considered by the appropriate committee, and Mr. S. G. Gunnell, who for many years held the dual appointment of Mayor's Secretary and Chief Clerk in the Public Health Department, was transferred to the Town Clerk's Department as Mayor's Secretary.

Miss M. B. McDermid was appointed Chief Clerk in my department and the vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of Miss C. J. Taylor as Junior Clerk.

Because of the increased work in the maintenance of records, particularly in respect of the collection of kitchen waste by means of individual containers in lieu of communal bins, and the very large number of refuse bins supplied to Council tenants, it was found necessary to appoint a part-time junior clerk. This junior is shared with the Borough Engineer's Department and the arrangement is working quite satisfactorily.

Mr. J. H. Stokes, one of the Additional Sanitary Inspectors, obtained employment with a firm of specialists in sanitation and severed his connection with Local Government at the end of the year.

2. HOUSING — SLUM CLEARANCE:

I can add but little to what has been said in previous years. Fortunately, the number of properties of this type is small and when the opportunity to deal with these presents itself, it should not create a difficult problem for the Council, as due to the removal of restrictions on private building it may well be that a number of existing Council houses will be available for the rehousing of displaced persons.

A close watch is maintained on these premises and they are kept reasonably weathertight.

3. HOUSING — RECONDITIONING:

We in Christchurch are fortunate that the greater number of properties are comparatively new and require but little attention. Naturally, there are a number of older properties, let at uneconomic rents, where it is difficult and often well-nigh impossible to have essential repairs carried out; this type of property gives rise to prolonged discussions and seemingly endless correspondence with the owners before repairs are finally effected.

The Government is aware of the difficulties facing property owners at the present time and it is to be hoped that action will be taken in the near future to enable landlords to maintain their property in a reasonable state of repair and thus reduce the number of prospective slums.

In the meantime, your inspectors continue to press for essential repairs with some degree of success. It was found necessary to serve Formal Notices in respect of three properties only. Two of these had been complied with at the end of the year.

4. HOUSING — OVERCROWDING:

As and when possible, your inspectors continue their survey of houses to ascertain which properties are overcrowded within the meaning of "overcrowding" as defined in Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Five complaints of overcrowding were lodged with the department during the year. In addition, many persons on the Council's Housing List have been interviewed in connection with alleged overcrowding. In the majority of cases no overcrowding was found to exist and the complaints were based on the fact that applicants were sharing a house and were anxious to obtain separate accommodation.

2,836 houses have been measured up during the past seven years and overcrowding in varying degrees has been found to exist in only 34 of these. Where serious overcrowding has been encountered, the matter has been taken up with the Housing Tenancies Committee and the families concerned have been given priority.

On the whole, the overcrowding situation is not serious, and I am satisfied that the Council are doing all in their power to bring relief to those families living under difficult conditions.

5. HOUSING ALLOCATION:

The continued increase in the population of the area adds to the difficulties facing the Council in their rehousing scheme and there is a very long list of applicants still waiting to be rehoused.

I am indebted to Mr. Wyatt, the Housing Officer, for the following details of families rehoused during the year and of those awaiting rehousing.

106 families were rehoused during the year. Of this number:-
21 were housed in temporary accommodation at Holmsley;
10 were housed in requisitioned properties;
75 were housed in new Council properties.

There are 173 families with a total of 650 persons temporarily housed at Holmsley.

The following table shows the size and number of families awaiting rehousing.

No. in Family	No. of Applicants		
9	2
8	1
7	4
6	19
5	51
4	112
3	180
2	297
1	57
			<hr/>
			723

The number for the previous year was 916.

The 173 families temporarily housed at Holmsley are made up as follows:-

No. in Family	No. of Applicants		
9	2
8	3
7	5
6	11
5	21
4	44
3	56
2	27
1	4
			<hr/>
			173

The corresponding figure last year was 193.

89 families are housed in requisitioned properties.

It is the policy of the Council to abolish the temporary housing accommodation in the hatted camp at Holmsley at the earliest opportunity. Steps have already been taken in this direction, and with the sanction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, 60 huts have been demolished. It will be apparent that the

Council are unable to rehouse all families resident at Holmsley in the immediate future and those huts which are to remain occupied are being weatherproofed.

6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

There is no doubt that the standard of cleanliness of the shops and restaurants in the Borough is maintained at a high level, and it is only occasionally that your inspectors have to draw attention to some minor point in the method of handling or storage of food.

The management of a comparatively large food factory has recently changed hands and the person now in control has completely transformed these premises which, under previous management, required the constant supervision of your inspectors. The products of this factory are distributed over a very wide area and it is gratifying to know that every effort is made to ensure that only food of first quality is released from these premises.

As will be seen by reference to Table 1, your inspectors have again given food premises a great deal of attention, no less than 1,416 visits having been made.

Practically every food shop in your area, including Public Houses, is provided with washing facilities in the form of fitted lavatory basins and running hot and cold water. A survey has revealed that 10 premises have no fitted basins. These shops, with one exception, have a supply of hot water and either sinks or portable basins. It is hoped that these few outstanding premises will be brought into line in the near future.

7. SAMPLING — FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-50:

Following is a list of Food and Drugs samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1953. I am indebted to Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, who procured the samples and furnished me with the details given below.

Article	No. Taken
Butter and other Fats	3
Drugs	2
Milk	58
Sausages and other Meat Products	6
Spirits	7
Other Foods	5

All the samples proved to be genuine and the 58 samples of milk proved to contain an average of 3.78% of milk fat and 8.85% of non-fatty solids.

8. MILK SUPPLY:

207 visits have been made to dairy premises during the year. Generally speaking, these are well maintained and in only one instance was it found necessary to call for repairs and decorations.

With one exception, all retailers receive their supplies ready-bottled and risk of contamination is thus reduced. The exception

is Hill View Dairy where Pasteurising and Bottling equipment is installed.

The Borough became a "Specified Area" with effect from 1st November, 1952. From that date, all milk sold in the area must be either Sterilised, Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or, until 30th September, 1954, Accredited.

Samples of milk from the Pasteuriser at Hill View Dairy are taken at irregular intervals. 23 such samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year. 3 failed to pass the test.

9. ICE CREAM:

Very large quantities of this material are consumed each day and in many respects ice cream has become part of the daily diet. Many traders take up the sale of this article in pre-packed form and the greater part of the ice cream retailed in your area is in the form of blocks or tubs. This is all to the good as it reduces risks of contamination. The only ice cream sold from bulk is in the cafes and restaurants where it is taken as a sweet.

The number of premises from which ice cream is sold is now 91, as compared with 109 last year. The decline in numbers is due to the fact that some shopkeepers have disposed of their business and their successors have discontinued the sale of this product.

Your inspectors have again given this matter a great deal of attention, as evidenced by the fact that upwards of 900 visits were made to these establishments.

One cafe proprietor approached the department with a view to being granted a licence to manufacture ice cream. As, however, he had no separate room in which this could be done, he was advised not to pursue the matter unless he was prepared to extend his premises. This he could not do, and he withdrew his application.

A number of itinerant vendors come into the district from time to time. It is difficult to check on these as their times and days are irregular. Where it has been possible to do so, inspection has revealed that the vehicles were clean and the ice cream wrapped.

One well-known firm retails regularly in the Borough. The product and the means of distribution are all that could be desired.

132 samples were procured during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test at the Public Health Laboratory, Boscombe. The results were as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	85
Grade 2	...	...	16
Grade 3	...	...	3
Grade 4	...	...	3

Last year, 88 samples gave the following results:—

Grade 1	...	...	83
Grade 2	...	...	4
Grade 3	...	...	Nil
Grade 4	...	...	1

Due to the abnormally hot weather experienced on the 27th May and again on 22nd July, the samples taken on those dates failed to pass the tests due to the fact that the Water Bath could not be kept at the desired temperature of 20 degrees Centigrade.

10. DRAINAGE:

Because of the large number of private dwellings erected during the year, considerably more of your inspectors' time has had to be devoted to the supervision and testing of new drainage works.

In one or two instances of small Estate Development great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the desired rate of flow due to the shallowness of the public sewer. The drains in question are being watched, and should they prove troublesome it may be necessary to install automatic flushing tanks to induce flow.

It is the policy of the department to abolish cesspools and bucket latrines wherever possible. Unfortunately, due to the absence of sewers in some of the less populated districts, it has been found necessary to permit the construction of cesspools or septic tanks to take the drainage of new properties erected in these areas.

Where the subsoil is suitable, owners are advised to construct septic tanks rather than cesspools as these fittings, if properly used, give many years of service with comparatively little attention.

The number of properties not connected to the sewer and the means of drainage are as follows:—

Draining to Septic Tanks	...	...	34
Draining to Cesspools	...	...	58
Bucket Latrines	...	...	62

The corresponding figures last year were:—

Draining to Septic Tanks	...	...	30
Draining to Cesspools	...	...	59
Bucket Latrines	...	...	68

Plans of all new buildings are now made available to me prior to being submitted to the appropriate Committee. This procedure facilitates the work of the department and ensures that only plans which give full details of proposed drainage works and which conform to the requirements of the byelaws with regard to drainage, are approved.

11. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:

There are now 12 licensed sites in the Borough with a total permitted number of 692 moveable dwellings.

There is no doubt that this number is quite inadequate to cope with the demand at the height of the season. Consequently, the permitted numbers are frequently exceeded on one or more sites and it is very difficult, in fact well-nigh impossible, to keep a check on the almost daily changes on these camps. On the whole, the sites are well conducted and all are provided with modern sanitary conveniences discharging to the sewers.

The owners of two sites were asked to provide additional sanitary accommodation. New sanitary blocks have been constructed and in one block the owner has also provided washing and bathing facilities.

Two Public Enquiries were held during the year in respect of applications which had been refused by the Planning Authority. Both appeals failed.

The old site at Rushford Warren has changed hands and considerable improvements have been made by the new owner who has constructed four new sanitary blocks and generally improved the lay-out.

Sandhills has continued to be used for temporary housing and all sites have been occupied throughout the year. There is a long list of persons wishing to move in on a permanent basis and innumerable holiday-makers desirous of stationing their vans on this site have to be turned down each year.

The number of families permanently residing in caravans on all sites in the Borough is now 166. Many of these have obtained employment in the area and have no choice but to live in caravans. The easing of restrictions on private building will, I hope, result in a decrease in the numbers who have to live under these conditions.

12. PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection:

A further increase of almost one thousand in the population and the construction of upwards of one hundred new houses during the year, has added to the difficulties previously experienced in ensuring the continuance of a regular weekly collection with the existing staff, particularly during the summer period when upwards of a dozen caravan sites and four beaches are in full use. Because of these difficulties a good deal of overtime has had to be worked by your refuse collectors.

It is apparent that the number of men employed on this service and on the collection of kitchen waste is inadequate, particularly during the holiday season, each man being entitled to a fortnight's holiday, and some revision of the numbers employed on this work will have to be made in the near future.

The sickness rate has again been very low, only 66 man-days—an average of 3.45 days per man—having been lost during the year. This speaks well for the men employed on this none-too-pleasant work, and they are to be congratulated on their tenacity in face of appalling weather conditions at times.

The continued use of skeps into which the contents of household bins are transferred enables your collectors to deal with a considerably larger number of bins per day by halving the distance they would have to cover if the bins had to be brought to the refuse vehicle and returned to the house after emptying. On the average, each man deals with the refuse from approximately 160 houses per day, and it is only very occasionally that I receive

complaints of the manner in which this work is carried out, a further tribute to the conscientiousness of your employees.

Refuse continues to be collected from the temporary Housing Estate at Holmsley. The cost of this work is recharged to the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council.

(b) Refuse Disposal:

Quite a large area of marshland has been reclaimed by means of Controlled Tipping, and all refuse collected in your area is disposed of in this manner and strictly in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. This system of disposal ensures that the material is deposited with the minimum of nuisance, and compacting with the aid of the Angledozer completely eliminates fly, rat and cricket infestations.

Because of the extensive building programme carried out by the Council during the past six or seven years, there has been a steady supply of soil for the final covering down of the reclaimed area. This source of supply is now exhausted and I know of no future building programme which would give anything like enough soil to cover down the area reclaimed each year.

The Council have recently acquired quite a large area of land adjoining Stanpit Marsh which it is intended to convert to sports fields. As and when reclaimed, this land will require a minimum top-dressing of nine inches of soil. As the depth of tipping in this area will be rather less than that on the present site, a larger area will be covered in the course of a year and larger quantities of soil will therefore be required. In the absence of further extensive building programmes, other sources of supply must be sought. I estimate that at the present rate of reclamation I require about 3,500 cubic yards of soil a year at an estimated cost of £1,490.

It is very doubtful if a regular supply, with delivery as and when required, could be found for such large quantities, and it is therefore necessary to find some other source from which soil could be drawn as desired. With this in mind, I have had trial holes dug on the area which it is intended to reclaim to ascertain the quantity of soil available and which, given the necessary equipment, could be stripped and deposited over the reclaimed area. Thirty-six holes were dug and it was found that the depth varies from 6 to 26 inches. Ample soil is therefore available, and it but remains to decide on the best and cheapest means of stripping and transporting it prior to depositing refuse. One way would be to "doze and stack". That would still leave the problem of loading and transporting the soil to the top of the tip as and when required. A more satisfactory method would be to "strip as we go" and immediately deposit the soil on the surface of the tip. This could be done with the aid of a Chaseside or similar type of shovel and would certainly be considerably cheaper than buying soil in very large quantities for many years to come.

Until quite recently I have been able to obtain ash from the Southern Gas Board's Works at Poole. This source of supply is now very uncertain and I am finding it very difficult to obtain

sufficient material to cover down. Six hundred and eighty nine tons of ash at a cost of £320 were used during the year. The use of this material could be abolished if soil were readily available, and the saving on this item would go towards the cost of operating a mechanical shovel. Furthermore, the erection of a large number of private buildings now going on in the eastern part of the Borough will shortly necessitate the reorganisation of the system of refuse collection in that area. In other words, an additional lorry will have to be put on this round. If it were possible to abolish "ashing down", the vehicle and driver employed on the collection of ash from Poole would be available and there would thus be a further substantial saving.

Refuse tipped some fifteen years ago when Crude Tipping was practised, is several feet above the level of the existing tip and hundreds of tons will have to be excavated and transported to the present tipping area. This work should be undertaken in the near future if long hauls are to be avoided.

It will have been gathered from the foregoing remarks that an early decision is necessary if the present system of land reclamation is not to break down, and I hope that this matter will be given the priority it demands.

2,415 loads of refuse with a total weight of 4,932 tons have been disposed of during the year. In addition, 912 loads of sweepings and builders' rubbish have been received at the tip. As these do not pass over the weighbridge, the weight is unknown, but is estimated at 1,500 tons. Several hundred tons of soil have also been deposited and levelled over the surface of the tip and I hope to be in a position to grass down a further fairly extensive area in September.

(c) Transport:

There has been no change in the number of vehicles at my disposal for the collection of refuse. The present number is adequate for the purpose. New side-loading containers have been fitted to the Morris and Dennis and authority has been obtained for the fitting of a new container to No. 2 Bedford. This work is now in hand and should be completed in about one month.

The vehicles are mechanically in a good state of repair and should continue to give good service for a number of years.

The smaller capacity of the new container on No. 3 lorry (Dennis) has necessitated some reorganisation of the rounds in Nos. 1 and 2 Wards. This has been done by bringing the standby vehicle into use as and when necessary. When in use, this vehicle is driven by the foreman and no additional driver has been employed.

It will be noticed by reference to Table 8, that there is a considerable decrease in the quantity of petrol used for all services during the year. This decrease is mainly due to the abolition of the mechanical means of loading on No. 3 lorry. As the new container was not fitted until September, the decrease in petrol consumption will be even more apparent during the current year.

(d) Costs:

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have reintroduced the Public Cleansing Costing Return which was last published in 1939. It is the wish of the Ministry that all the larger urban areas throughout the country should furnish details of costs. The return in respect of your area has been submitted.

To ensure uniformity the Ministry asked that all Salvage income, other than that from kitchen waste, should be credited to disposal.

To avoid confusion, I have followed this principle in respect of the costs shown in Table 10 of this report, and it will be seen that the disposal of refuse has thrown up a credit under the various headings.

In previous years, such income has always been credited to collection. The change in procedure naturally throws up a larger figure which, however, is offset by the much lower cost of disposal.

The Net cost of the service for the year ending 31st March, including 24% overheads, is £7,590 9s. 10d. The cost for the previous year was £6,500 4s. 0d. The increase is due to a drop of over £1,100 in income from salvage and other sources and to further increases in wages, petrol, oil and cost of repairs.

13. TRADE REFUSE:

Refuse is collected from this type of premises as and when necessary, collections varying from one to four per week.

In my previous Annual Report I drew attention to the abnormally low charges levied for this service and suggested they should be increased. This matter was considered by the Public Health Committee and with effect from 1st April, 1953, the charges are to be trebled. This is an improvement on the previous charges but still not sufficient to cover costs.

14. SALVAGE:

There has been a definite slump in the demand for waste paper, and were it not for the contract entered into with a firm of Waste Paper Merchants some two or three years ago, the Council would have been faced with a glut of this material, the greater part of which would have had to be disposed of in the tip or destroyed by burning.

Prices have dropped very considerably during the year and are now at a level where it is just about possible to hold one's own, very little profit being derived from the operation of the scheme. This is a matter of great concern to many local authorities and it is to be hoped that something will be done in the near future to place the collection of this material on a sound business basis and that there will be no return to the fantastically high prices obtaining in 1951, prices which resulted in an invasion by persons anxious to grow rich quick. These persons collected the best of the material and left the rest to be removed by the Council.

Despite these difficulties, upwards of 200 tons of paper have been sold during the year. In addition, some 50 tons of textiles and metals have also been disposed of, the total revenue being £1,860. On the debit side there is a sum of £1,181 for wages, heating, lighting, etc. The account, therefore, shows a credit of approximately £680. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £3,655; £880 and £2,775.

Table 9 shows the transactions in some detail.

15. SCRAP METALS:

Without special equipment it is virtually impossible to recover all tins from refuse brought to the tip-face. All the larger containers and quite a number of the smaller tins are sorted out and disposed of to a firm of Scrap Merchants in Southampton. I have no means of crushing or baling the tins and these are disposed of in their loose state. This adds to the cost of loading and transport and the price paid by the contractor is therefore low. As I am anxious to exclude large metal containers and tins from the tip, I feel that the Council is fortunate in being able to dispose of these in their loose state at any price. It is hoped that the present contractors will continue to clear accumulations.

16. KITCHEN WASTE:

For many years, the Council have been required to collect kitchen waste and have such waste treated at the Ministry's Concentrator Plant at Bournemouth.

For quite a long time, and due mainly to the difficulty in obtaining suitable containers in sufficient numbers, communal bins were used for the reception of this material. These bins were found to be a constant source of worry as they were repeatedly upturned by dogs or children, and in some instances the contents were regularly stolen. Efforts were made to trace the persons responsible but with no success.

Individual household containers are now available in unlimited quantities, and it has been the policy of the department, with the sanction of the Public Health Committee, gradually to abolish the street bins and increase the number of kitchen waste buckets in individual households. From very small beginnings some three years ago, the number in circulation has continued to increase and is now upwards of 600. It is hoped to increase this number still further during the current year.

The issue of large numbers of buckets has quite naturally added to the work of the department as special records have had to be prepared and constantly maintained. If this were not done, valuable equipment would very quickly go astray following the many changes of tenancy which occur in the period of a year.

A weekly check is made on the quantity of waste in each container. The attention of householders concerned is drawn to containers which are not reasonably productive or which are found to be empty for several weeks; where there is no improvement

following such an appeal, they are withdrawn and issued to other premises.

There is no doubt that considerably more waste is made available by the new method of collection as evidenced by the following figures which show the tonnage for three consecutive years.

1950/51	1951/52	1952/53
100 tons	94 tons	158 tons

These figures are considerably below those set by the Ministry, whose target is one ton per 1,000 of population per month. It must be borne in mind, however, that the area is partly rural and that a very large number of persons keep pigs and poultry. In addition, quite a number of collectors have been licensed by the Ministry, and these collectors get the best of the material. However, subject to a steady increase in the number of containers in circulation, it is possible that the scheme will become financially self-supporting.

I have continued to collect swill from the canteens of the seven schools in the area.

It was felt for quite a while that the larger vehicle employed on the collection of this material was far too costly and the Committee were asked to consider the purchase of an Electric Vehicle with a capacity of approximately 12 cwts. This the Committee agreed to do and after trial runs with two types it was decided to purchase a Walker N.C.B. This vehicle has been in operation since July and its range is such that it collects material from as far afield as Holmsley. Because of its somewhat limited capacity, arrangements were made at the depot whereby the vehicle can very quickly transfer its load to a larger petrol driven lorry which, when finally loaded, is taken to the Plant at Bournemouth. The vehicle has been in operation for nine months and I am satisfied that the experiment has been worthwhile.

17. RODENT CONTROL:

It is the duty of the local authority, in accordance with Section 2 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, to take such steps as may be necessary to keep their district free of rats and mice. The Council have a Rodent Operator whose duty it is to carry out these requirements.

The work done by your Rodent Operator during the year is shown in some detail in Table 16.

There is no doubt that the methods and materials recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have proved successful in the campaign against this pest. Prior to the present organised methods of rodent control, rat infestation in the area had reached alarming proportions, and on the refuse tip alone, hundreds of rat runs were found daily. Now, partly due to the new method of control and the fact that Controlled Tipping is

practised, it is very rare that a rat is seen on the tip and the rat population throughout the district has been greatly reduced.

The Ministry authorised the use of a new product during the year. This product, Warfarin, is very effective and can be used with comparative safety where pet animals are present. Pre and Post baiting are unnecessary and considerably fewer visits have to be made to individual premises. This material was first used by the department in July and the results have proved quite satisfactory. It is occasionally found necessary to use Zinc Phosphide.

335 premises have been inspected during the year. 115 were visited as the result of complaints lodged by the occupiers. 257 properties, including 28 business premises and an agricultural holding, were found to be infested. All these premises were satisfactorily treated.

A survey of the sewers has been made during the year. For this purpose, the system is divided into six sections with a total of 1,056 manholes. Test baits were laid in 121 manholes. There were only eight Complete or Partial takes. Poison bait was laid in the infested manholes and post-baiting proved these to be free of rats. The rat population in the sewers is therefore negligible.

18. DISINFECTING STATION:

Fairly extensive use has been made of the Bacterol disinfecting apparatus — 764 blankets, 515 mattresses and 347 pillows having been dealt with during the year. Most of these items are the property of the Council and are in use in the beach huts at Highcliffe and Mudeford.

19. COMPLAINTS:

371 complaints were lodged with the department during the year. The nature of these is shown in detail in Table 5.

20. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS:

Tables 10 and 11 show in detail the cost of collection and disposal of refuse and lorry operating costs.

In closing this report I wish to thank His Worship The Mayor (Councillor K. H. Ashcroft); the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Councillor S. Kermode); the Town Clerk (Mr. W. D. Platt); the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. J. N. McNab), and the members of the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Town Hall,
Christchurch.
June, 1953.

TABLE 1.
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Control of Civil Building Visits	...	...	...	...	61
Revisits	...	...	...	...	122
Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	95
Revisits	...	...	...	...	143
Housing—Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	244
Drainage Visits	...	...	...	...	554
Revisits	...	...	...	...	848
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	177
Revisits	...	...	...	...	881
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	160
Revisits	...	...	...	...	125
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	1,033
Revisits	...	...	...	...	383
Clean Food Guild	...	...	...	...	260
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	756
Revisits	...	...	...	...	172
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	116
Revisits	...	...	...	...	91
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	26
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	104
Revisits	...	...	...	...	125
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	26
Revisits	...	...	...	...	45
Factories	...	...	...	...	277
Revisits	...	...	...	...	61
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	1
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	36
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	69
Vans, Tents, etc.	...	...	...	...	50
Revisits	...	...	...	...	229
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	107
Shops (Shops Acts)	...	...	...	...	463
Offices	...	...	...	...	29
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	221
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	484
Salvage and Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	810
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	323
Revisits	...	...	...	...	952
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	64
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	6
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	45
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	31
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	695
					11,500

TABLE 2.

ARTICLES OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

Plums (Blown, Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	264 tins
Luncheon Meat (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	...	130 tins
Tomatoes (Blown, Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	81 tins
Peas (Blown) ...	...	...	29 tins
Processed Peas (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	...	42 tins
Beans in Tomato Sauce (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	...	46 tins
Apricots (Blown) ...	...	...	7 tins
Rice Krispies (Contaminated) ...	...	...	6 pkts.
Scotts Oats (Contaminated) ...	...	...	5 pkts.
Cooking Salt (Contaminated) ...	...	...	4 pkts.
Table Salt (Contaminated) ...	...	...	3 pkts.
Corn Flakes (Contaminated) ...	...	...	5 pkts.
Puffed Wheat (Contaminated) ...	...	...	5 pkts.
Pepper (Contaminated) ...	...	...	2 pkts.
Mustard (Contaminated) ...	...	...	4 pkts.
Butter Beans (Contaminated) ...	...	...	3 lbs.
Damsons (Blown) ...	...	...	12 tins
Blackcurrants (Rusted, Perforated) ...	...	...	1 tin
Milk (Blown) ...	...	...	14 tins
Grapes (Blown) ...	...	...	39 tins
Pears (Blown) ...	...	...	6 tins
Peaches (Blown) ...	...	...	6 tins
Sausages (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	...	1 tin
Sausages (Mouldy, Decomposed and Sourness) ...	...	...	66½ lbs.
Stewed Steak (Blown) ...	...	...	88 tins
Boneless Ham (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	...	6 tins
Shoulder Ham (Decomposed) ...	...	...	6 tins
Gammon (Decomposed) ...	...	...	2 tins
Gooseberries (Blown) ...	...	...	11 tins
Rabbit (Blown) ...	...	...	2 tins
Jellied Veal (Blown) ...	...	...	4 tins
Cream of Tomato Soup (Blown) ...	...	...	2 tins
Vegetable Salad in Mayonnaise (Blown) ...	...	...	2 tins
Weston's Tea Cakes (Staleness, Rancial Smell) ...	...	...	234
Grouse in Aspic (Decomposed) ...	...	...	2 jars
Crushed Pineapple (Blown) ...	...	...	10 tins
Pineapple Cubes (Blown) ...	...	...	1 tin
Apricot Jam (Blown) ...	...	...	4 tins
Apricot Pulp (Blown) ...	...	...	4 tins
Marmalade (Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	4 tins
Apple Dumplings (Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	1 tin
Herrings in Tomato Sauce (Blown) ...	...	...	1 tin
Soused Herrings (Blown) ...	...	...	1 tin
Pilchards in Tomato Sauce (Blown) ...	...	...	1 tin
Brawn (Blown) ...	...	...	11 tins
Grapefruit Juice (Blown, Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	2 tins
Grapefruit (Blown, Damaged Containers) ...	...	...	1 tin

TABLE 2 (continued).

Grapefruit Segments (Blown, Perforated Containers)		3 tins
Trimmings of Beef (Fibrosis, Cyst, T.B.) ...	... ...	79 lbs.
Hindquarter of Beef (Bone Taint, Bruising) ...	...	120 lbs.
Pork (T.B.) ... ... ...	...	221 lbs.
Ox Sweetbreads (Decomposed) ...	...	8 lbs.
Raspberry Jam (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Blackcurrant Jam (Blown) ...	...	2 tins
Mutton (Abcessed, Mould, Store Stale) ...	...	533 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Veal and Ham Loaf (Decomposed) ...	...	9 tins
Cherries (Blown, Damaged Containers) ...	...	200 tins
Orange Segments (Blown) ...	...	14 tins
Lambs Tongues (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Lambs Livers (Mould) ...	...	91 lbs.
Beef and Vegetable Broth (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Forerib of Beef (Bruising) ...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Smoked Cod Fillet (Decomposed) ...	...	14 lbs.
Processed Cheese (Mould) ...	...	9 pkts.
Dressed Crab (Decomposed) ...	...	1 tin
Fresh Plum Pudding (Blown) ...	...	7 tins
Halibut (Decomposed) ...	...	5 stone
Carrots (Blown) ...	...	3 tins
Strawberries (Blown) ...	...	2 tins
Greengages (Blown) ...	...	6 tins
Raspberries (Blown) ...	...	3 tins
Stewed Apple with Sugar (Blown) ...	...	3 tins
Pineapple Rings (Blown) ...	...	3 tins
Cooked Pork Butts (Decomposed) ...	...	5 tins
Pastry Emulsion (Rancid) ...	...	6 pkts.
Spaghetti with Cheese (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce (Blown) ...	...	2 tins
Fruit Mince meat (Blown) ...	...	4 tins
Minced Meat Loaf (Blown) ...	...	6 tins
Sardines (Blown and Perforated) ...	...	5 tins
Braised Kidneys (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Cottage Pie (Blown, Decomposed) ...	...	1 tin
Pilchards (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Salmon (Blown) ...	...	7 tins
Boiling Fowl (Avian tuberculosis) ...	...	1
Haricot Beans (Blown) ...	...	11 tins
Strained Foods (Rusted, Perforated) ...	...	9 tins
Scotch Broth (Blown) ...	...	1 tin
Silver Side, Topside and Rump (Severe Bruising) ...	...	9 lbs.

TABLE 3.

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following is a Summary of the particulars as recorded in the Registers at the 31st December, 1952.

No. of cowkeepers who are also retailers of milk ...	2
No. of persons registered as Distributors of milk ...	28
No. of persons resident outside the district retailing milk in the area	7

TABLE 4.

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE.

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department:—

(a) DRAINAGE:

No. of new premises drained	81
No. of houses and premises redrained	19
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	57
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	55
Length in yards of stoneware drains laid	3,291
Manholes provided	196
New manhole covers	183
Intercepting traps fixed	75
New gully traps fixed	205
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	97
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	3
Water tests applied	267
Smoke tests applied	106
Colour tests applied	151
Cesspools abolished	3
Cesspools emptied	7
Septic tanks constructed	7
Septic tanks abolished	—

TABLE 4 (continued).

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:

New W.C. accommodation provided ...	...	...	...	70
New W.C. apartments provided ...	...	...	...	72
New W.C. pedestals provided ...	...	...	...	84
W.C.'s cleansed ...	...	...	...	2
New flushing cisterns provided ...	...	...	...	50
Flushing cisterns repaired ...	...	...	...	9
Baths provided ...	...	...	...	48
Sinks provided ...	...	...	...	51
Lavatory basins provided ...	...	...	...	61
New waste pipes trapped ...	...	...	...	160
Pail closets and/or middens abolished ...	...	...	...	8

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:

Houses provided with through ventilation	...	...	—
New roofs provided ...	...	...	...	—
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	...	32
Eaves, gutters renewed or repaired ...	...	...	...	16
Stack pipes provided ...	...	...	...	—
Stack pipes disconnected or repaired ...	...	...	...	1
Damp walls remedied ...	...	...	...	28
Ventilation under floors provided ...	...	...	...	1
Yards paved ...	...	...	...	—
Yards repaired ...	...	...	...	—
Floors of rooms relaid ...	...	...	...	2
Floors of rooms repaired ...	...	...	...	11
New windows provided ...	...	...	...	2
Windows repaired and/or made to open ...	...	...	...	39
Rooms cleansed and redecorated ...	...	...	...	14
Doors repaired or renewed ...	...	...	...	22
Ventilated food stores provided ...	...	...	...	—
Staircases provided or repaired ...	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided ...	...	...	...	358
Nuisances—overcrowding abated ...	...	...	...	1
" —smoke ...	...	...	...	1
" —animals ...	...	...	...	8
" —accumulation of manure and refuse ...	...	...	...	7
Workrooms cleansed and repaired ...	...	...	...	—
Cowsheds and dairies cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Grates, ranges, coppers renewed or repaired ...	...	...	...	18
Rooms disinfected ...	...	...	...	62
Premises disinfested ...	...	...	...	24
Premises sprayed as a precautionary measure ...	...	...	...	—
Insufficient water supply ...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses cleansed ...	...	...	...	1
Fish frying premises cleansed ...	...	...	...	1

TABLE 5.
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 371 Complaints were received as detailed below:—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Choked drains	24
Defective roofs	17
Dilapidations	18
Defective water supply	1
Dampness	7
Overflowing septic tanks	1
Defective lavatory basins	1
Defective flushing cisterns	4
Absence of dustbins	41
Animals	2
Smells	24
Non-removal of refuse	2
Accumulation of refuse	9
Dirty conditions	2
Fleas and bugs	7
Overcrowding	5
Food	60
Rats	115
Defective fireplaces	2
Defective grates	7
Smoke	2
Insects	6
Conveniences	2
Defective chimneys	2
Existing sanitary arrangements	1
Insufficient food storage	1
Miscellaneous	8
	371

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 6 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

TABLE 6.

Number of Notices Served.

Notices	Out-standing 31/12/51	Number Served	Complied with	Work done by L.A. in default	Out-standing 31/12/52
Informal	18	37	45	—	10
Statutory	3	6	4	—	5
Total ...	21	43	49	—	15

Summary of Statutory Notices Served:

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	...	...	3
Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	...	...	3

HOUSING STATISTICS.

TABLE 7.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 — OVERCROWDING

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	?
2. Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	723
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,058
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	343
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	371
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding							—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report					...	...	—

It will be appreciated that until a complete survey is carried out it is impossible to give accurate information and the figures quoted must be read in conjunction with the remarks which appear in Section 4 of the report.

TABLE 8.
RECORD OF PETROL AND OIL CONSUMED BY REFUSE LORRIES
DURING THE PERIODS 1951/52 and 1952/53.

MONTH 1951/52	PETROL (Gallons)					OIL (Pints)					Monthly Totals	
	1	2	3	4	5	LORRY	Angle dozer	4	5	Angle dozer	Van	
April ...	84	96	85	48	81	30	4	428	2	8	—	22
May ...	72	108	136	32	90	36	4	478	2	4	—	68
June ...	72	96	153	16	70	42	4	453	2	12	7	52
July ...	60	84	170	8	80	32	8	442	2	4	—	30
Aug. ...	60	96	187	11	80	38	8	480	14	4	8	30
Sept. ...	60	72	102	30	80	32	3	379	—	12	11	25
Oct. ...	72	84	2	80	70	32	—	340	4	4	—	40
Nov. ...	72	84	156	10	80	32	3	437	6	13	10	38
Dec. ...	72	72	153	12	60	48	3	420	14	4	40	62
Jan. ...	67	102	163	17	82	46	4	481	4	6	17	45
Feb. ...	72	84	187	16	80	48	—	487	4	6	18	36
March ...	84	84	170	5	90	48	7	488	10	18	—	42
Total ...	847	1062	1664	285	943	464	48	5313	64	95	168	490
<hr/>												
1952/53												
April ...	72	96	153	16	70	56	8	471	4	6	10	61
May ...	72	96	187	10	90	59	7	521	6	12	5	38
June ...	72	96	136	8	70	64	15	461	4	16	14	43
July ...	48	60	204	40	80	56	—	488	4	6	11	28
Aug. ...	82	89	24	40	80	48	3	366	5	4	4	24
Sept. ...	48	106	65	40	80	60	6	405	17	2	34	93
Oct. ...	58	24	120	40	90	48	7	387	8	10	16	57
Nov. ...	70	24	90	32	70	40	4	330	8	2	7	32
Dec. ...	72	—	105	32	90	48	3	350	18	—	12	44
Jan. ...	72	24	105	40	90	56	10	397	14	12	2	45
Feb. ...	60	24	60	32	100	40	—	316	13	2	45	105
March ...	84	—	105	40	90	48	6	373	24	—	20	67
Total ...	810	639	11354	370	1000	623	69	4865	125	54	197	637

TABLE 9.

RECORD OF SALVAGE TRANSACTIONS DURING THE PERIOD
 1st APRIL, 1952, TO 31st MARCH, 1953.

Month	Paper			Textiles			Metals			Tins			Value						
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	T.	C.	Q.				
April	14	5	2	11	1	2	3	17	7	1	0	24	—	—	279	1	0		
May	14	2	2	7	1	2	1	25	—	—	2	21	—	—	161	14	3		
June	14	4	3	12	—	19	1	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	148	11	0		
July	20	4	0	16	1	4	3	25	—	1	0	21	10	18	1	21	235	0	11
August	13	8	3	16	1	12	3	6	—	—	1	6	—	—	133	18	7		
September	17	17	0	18	—	19	2	9	4	15	0	14	—	—	109	13	8		
October	17	6	1	26	—	16	2	9	—	1	2	14	—	—	131	10	7		
November	16	8	3	8	—	11	3	9	—	—	2	4	—	—	119	9	8		
December	17	10	2	15	—	10	2	18	—	—	2	16	13	3	2	0	139	1	3
January	17	5	1	13	—	8	2	7	—	—	2	0	—	—	—	—	117	6	3
February	11	16	—	5	—	8	—	18	—	2	11	7	—	1	14	100	3	2	
March	26	10	2	17	1	8	2	7	—	1	1	20	—	—	—	184	18	11	
Totals ...	201	1	0	24	11	6	1	22	12	3	3	11	31	2	1	7	£1,860	9	3

TABLE 10.
PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.
DETAILS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,
YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1953.

No.	Item	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
REFUSE COLLECTION:							
1.	Wages of Foreman	310	5	5			
2.	Wages of Loaders	3,646	12	7			
3.	Salvage (sorting and Packing, etc.)	1,181	16	0			
4.	Protective Clothing	44	14	3			
5.	Transport (including Drivers) ...	3,380	16	1			
6.	Tools, Implements, etc. ...	58	7	11			
					8,622	12	3
	Less Gross Income				957	8	2
	Net Cost				7,665	4	1
REFUSE DISPOSAL:							
7.	Wages, Covering Materials, etc. ...	1,156	4	3			
8.	Angledozer Operating Costs ...	497	4	6			
9.	Transport Charges	253	5	8			
10.	Protective Clothing	2	9	9			
11.	Tools, Implements, etc. ...	69	10	10			
					1,978	15	0
	Less Gross Income				2,053	9	3
	Net Cost Cr.				74	14	3
Gross Expenditure — Collection and Disposal ...							
	Gross Income — Collection and Disposal ...				10,601	7	3
	Net Expenditure — Collection and Disposal ...				3,010	17	5
					£7,590	9	10

Total Refuse Collected (Tons) ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,932
Estimated Population (including Holmsley) ...	...	...	...	...	...	22,139
No. of Premises from which refuse is collected ...	...	...	...	...	...	6,935
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day ...	...	...	...	...	...	12.21

COLLECTION:						
Net Cost per Ton ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	31s. 1d.
Net Cost per 1,000 Premises ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,105 5s. 10d.
Net Cost per 1,000 Population ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	£346 4s. 7d.

DISPOSAL:						
Total Refuse Disposed of (Tons) ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	6,432
Net Cost per Ton ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	Cr. 2.79d.
Net Cost per 1,000 Premises ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	Cr. £10 15s. 6d.
Net Cost per 1,000 Population ... ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	Cr. £3 7s. 6d.

TABLE 11.

SUMMARY OF OPERATING COSTS OF CORPORATION'S REFUSE AND SALVAGE LORRIES,
1st APRIL, 1952, TO 31st MARCH, 1953.

Lorry No.	Driver's Wages £ s. d.	Petrol and Oil £ s. d.	Insurance and Tax £ s. d.	Repairs £ s. d.	Cleaning and Depreciation £ s. d.	Workmen's Overtime £ s. d.	Total Cost £ s. d.	Possible Working Days	No. of Working Days	Total Mileage	Total Petrol Consump. (gals.)	M.P.G.	Cost per mile	Cost per Working Day	p. s. d.	
1 277 9 8	176 11 9	59 19 6	99 4 6	—	9 6 11	3 13 8	626 6 0	267	233	7961	810	9.83	18.88	2 13 9		
2 170 5 4	137 0 10	59 16 7	25 2 7	—	6 7 3	3 10 8	402 3 3	267	145	5735	639	8.98	16.83	2 15 6		
3 317 11 9	289 2 10	65 11 0	485 0 10	103 0 0	26 2 2	3 11 7	1290 0 2	267	231	5419	1354	4.00	57.13	5 11 8		
4 114 13 9	85 4 3	38 14 1	281 9 11	—	5 7 10	3 11 7	529 1 5	267	155	3125	370	8.45	40.63	3 8 3		
5 335 13 0	209 12 2	73 2 8	94 12 4	288 0 0	18 19 4	3 11 7	963 11 1	267	263	7511	1000	7.51	30.79	3 13 3		
Total	1235 13 6	897 11 10	297 3 10	985 10 2	331 0 0	66 3 6	17 19 1	3811	1 11							

TABLE 12.
RECORD OF KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTIONS AND SALES
During the period 1st April, 1952, to 31st March, 1953.

Month			T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Value		
							£	s.	d.
April	...	...	10	18	0	0	33	10	4
May	...	...	12	4	3	0	41	13	6
June	...	...	11	5	3	0	36	13	8
July	...	...	11	5	0	0	36	11	3
August	...	...	10	7	0	0	38	16	3
September	...	...	14	17	0	0	55	13	9
October	...	...	16	14	1	0	62	13	5
November	...	...	12	15	1	0	47	17	2
December	...	...	14	9	2	0	54	5	8
January	...	...	15	9	2	0	58	0	8
February	...	...	13	12	1	0	51	0	11
March	...	...	14	5	3	0	53	11	7
Totals	...	...	158	4	0	0	570	8	2

TABLE 13.
**RECORD OF "CONCENTRATE" SOLD TO PIG AND
POULTRY KEEPERS.**

Month			T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Value		
							£	s.	d.
April	...	...	7	6	0	0	60	16	8
May	...	...	7	10	0	0	62	6	8
June	...	...	8	10	0	0	70	14	0
July	...	...	7	8	0	0	61	11	8
August	...	...	6	4	0	0	56	18	9
September	...	...	10	3	0	0	91	5	3
October	...	...	10	7	0	0	93	11	4
November	...	...	8	15	0	0	78	15	0
December	...	...	10	11	0	0	94	18	3
January	...	...	8	18	0	0	79	15	2
February	...	...	9	5	0	0	82	13	11
March	...	...	10	10	0	0	93	14	0
Totals	...	...	105	7	0	0	927	0	8

TABLE 14.

**KITCHEN WASTE AND CONCENTRATE
COLLECTION AND DELIVERY COSTS**

Period 1st April, 1952, to 31st March, 1953.

No.	Item	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Gross Income:		
	Collection and Disposal	1,529 19 8	1,529 19 8
	Less Gross Expenditure:		
1.	Payments for Swill	75 7 2	
2.	Payments for Concentrate ...	731 8 6	
3.	Transport (including Driver) ...	655 18 10	
4.	Wages (additional labour) ...	79 15 0	
5.	Individual Containers and Bins ...	67 14 9	1,610 4 3
	Net Loss — Collection and Disposal		80 4 7

TABLE 15.

RODENT CONTROL.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE, Year ending 31st March, 1953.

No.	Item	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1.	Bait	10 8 1	
2.	Poison	3 13 7	
3.	Stationery and Advertising ...	1 18 2	
4.	Plant, Tools, etc.	3 2 6	
5.	Salary of Rodent Officer ...	362 15 5	381 17 9
	Gross Expenditure		381 17 9
	Gross Income		181 4 11
	Net Expenditure		200 12 10

TABLE 16.
RODENT CONTROL.
SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Month	No. of Visits	No. of Points Baited			Bait Taken			Bodies Recovered	Estimated Total Kill
		Prebait	Poison	Postbait	Prebait	Poison	Postbait		
January	93	151	69	72	94	36	6	15	41
February	139	280	130	89	168	54	6	12	45
March	113	244	131	88	133	73	7	12	74
April	121	255	118	87	166	68	13	13	85
May	110	271	121	110	163	41	Nil	11	42
June	76	181	60	123	123	36	Nil	14	75
July	125	96	60	54	60	30	4	11	44
August	79	208	127	107	122	53	10	8	78
September	85	180	144	48	135	57	Nil	11	46
October	120	304	140	134	200	43	10	5	83
November	117	286	182	94	170	65	Nil	1	52
December	109	212	97	67	134	46	Nil	3	48
Totals		1287	2668	1379	1073	1668	56	116	713

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1952 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	26	56	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	92	221	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	118	277	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	To H.M. Inspector	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	By H.M. Inspector	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—		—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—		—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—		—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):				
(a) insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	1
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	2	3	—	—
Total ...	8	9	—	1

OUTWORKER SECTION — NIL.

